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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Patent application of : Attorney Docket No.:
Jack T. Baker : 9687-5 (186516)
Serial No.: 10/652,817 : Group Art Unit:
Confirmation No.: 2480 : 1731
Filed: August 29, 2003 : Examiner:
For: CHIP BIN : Mark Halpern

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56 and in accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.97-1.98, the Applicants attach hereto a completed PTO Form 1449 (modified).

This information disclosure statement is being filed prior to a first office action on the merits. No certification or fee is due. However, if necessary, please charge any fee, or credit any overcharge, to Deposit Account No. 50-0573.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to review the information listed below and on the attached Form PTO-1449 and make it of record in the instant application as required by M.P.E.P. §609. It is requested that the Examiner initial the enclosed duplicate substitute Form

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION	
I hereby certify that this correspondence, along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below.	
BY	<u>Kathleen A. O'Leary</u>
DATE	<u>January 4, 2005</u>

PHIP4829491

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PTO-1449, and return one copy to the undersigned.

Prior use by applicant

The applicant recalls that more than 20 years ago he was employed at a plant on Long Island, NY, that used large quantities of flour. The flour was stored in upright silos with conical outlets at the bottom. Flour, especially when it becomes damp, tends to cake, and bridging of the damp flour over the outlets of the silos was a problem. The applicant recalls that he equipped one of the silos with a device that directed compressed air from an available supply along the conical base of the silo to disrupt the bridges. The device had a header encircling the conical bottom of the silo about half-way up the cone, with nozzles, probably 6 to 10 in number, projecting through the cone. The nozzles directed the compressed air down the surface of the cone towards the outlet. The compressed air system was activated by a flow sensor in the outlet pipe, so that it operated only if the outflow was lower than it should have been, implying that bridging was occurring. The device was effective, and other silos at the same plant were later similarly equipped. The modified silos were used as part of the normal commercial operation of the plant. However, as far as the applicant is aware, the device was not used outside that particular plant.

This statement is based on the unaided recollection of the applicant, and its accuracy and completeness cannot be guaranteed. No documentation is presently available to applicant. Applicant believes that the company that owned the plant has gone out of business, and that the plant has been demolished. The applicant believes that drawings were made when the device was installed, but applicant does not know what happened to those drawings. Applicant does not know whether any drawings or other documents have survived. Applicant does not know where any surviving documentation could be found.

U.S. Patent references

U.S. Patent No. 4,172,539 (Botkin)

U.S. Patent No. 6,497,791 (Baker)


U.S. Patent No. 6,497,791 (Baker), having the same inventor as this application, is not presently believed to be prior art citable under any part of 35 U.S.C. § 102, but is cited as technological background and out of an abundance of caution.

This Information Disclosure Statement should not be construed as a representation that the cited information is material or that more relevant prior art does not exist.

Respectfully submitted,

JACK T. BAKER

BY:



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Sheet 1 of 1

SUBSTITUTE FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 9687-5US1 (186516)	SERIAL NO. 10/652,817
	APPLICANT: Jack T. Baker	
	FILING DATE August 29, 2003	GROUP 1731

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE (IF APPROPRIATE)
	BA	4,172,539	10/1979	Botkin	222	195	
	BB	6,497,791	12/2002	Baker	162	246	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	BC	Installation in a flour silo on Long Island, NY, date unknown, as further described in the accompanying paper.

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	